

CLAIMS

1. A method of controlling the equivalence ratio in an internal combustion engine to improve catalytic converter performance comprising:
 varying an equivalence ratio setpoint between a rich and a lean state periodically; and
 5 introducing a fuel enrichment pulse to the equivalence ratio that sweeps the equivalence ratio across stoichiometry.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of varying an equivalence ratio setpoint between a rich and a lean state characterized as a periodic function comprises varying the equivalence ratio between 0.9 and 1.1.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the magnitude of the fuel enrichment pulse at least enriches the equivalence ratio by 0.1.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the fuel enrichment pulse is added periodically.
5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising determining the equivalence ratio of the internal combustion engine using an oxygen sensor.
6. The method of Claim 5 wherein said oxygen sensor generates a discrete signal.
7. A method of controlling equivalence ratio in an internal combustion engine comprising:
 dithering the equivalence ratio about an equivalence ratio setpoint;
 controlling the equivalence ratio with an oxygen sensor;
 5 introducing a fuel enrichment pulse to sweep the equivalence ratio across stoichiometry.

8. The method of Claim 7 further comprising introducing the fuel enrichment pulse periodically.

9. The method of Claim 7 further comprising determining the equivalence ratio of the internal combustion engine using an oxygen sensor.

10. The method of Claim 7 wherein said oxygen sensor generates a discrete signal.

11. The method of Claim 10 wherein said oxygen sensor generates an analog signal.

12. An engine control system for an internal combustion engine comprising:

a fuel injector for introducing fuel into the internal combustion engine;

5 a controller for controlling the amount of fuel injected into the internal combustion engine by said fuel injector;

an exhaust manifold coupled to said internal combustion engine;

a catalytic converter coupled to said exhaust manifold; and

10 wherein said controller dithers the equivalence ratio about stoichiometry and introduces a fuel enrichment pulse to periodically sweep the equivalence ratio across stoichiometry.

13. The system of Claim 12 wherein said internal combustion engine is an overhead valve engine.

14. The system of Claim 12 wherein said internal combustion engine is an overhead cam engine.

15. The system of Claim 12 wherein said internal combustion engine is a rotary engine.

16. The system of Claim 12 wherein said catalytic converter is a three-way catalytic converter.